

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the City of Newport News, Virginia.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

May 31, 2013 to June 25, 2013

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Certification

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal permitting action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:**

DOD/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The City of Newport News (Newport News or Applicant) has submitted a Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the issuance of an individual permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to make improvements to the Lee Hall Reservoir Dam in the City of Newport News. The reservoir comprises an Upper Pool and Lower Pool with differing pool elevations. The Upper Pool is impounded by a CSX Railroad causeway and has a water level that is 3.1 feet higher than the water elevation of the Lower Pool (elevation 16.5 feet) which is impounded by a dam first constructed over 100 years ago and improved over the decades (the Lower Dam). Both the CSX Causeway and Lower Dam are classified as "high hazard" structures by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, which is defined as a dam that if failed, possible loss of life and serious property damage would occur. The project includes decommissioning the CSX Causeway as a regulated dam by removing the water control structure; this action would be done in conjunction with improvements to the Lower Dam to handle the Probable Maximum Flood. The project also includes improving the Lower Dam and spillway in such a manner as to raise the Lower Pool by 2.5 feet from 16.5 feet to 19.0 feet. This will nearly match the pool elevation of the Upper Pool. The removal of the water control structure at the CSX Causeway will allow the water level of the Upper Pool to be lowered by 0.6 feet. A new boat ramp will be installed at the CSX Causeway underneath an existing Dominion Power overhead power line to provide for barge access during the work to remove the Upper Pool water control structure. At the completion of the project, the Upper and Lower Pools will maintain the same water elevation of 19.0 feet. Newport News has submitted a Federal Consistency Certification that finds the proposed project consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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